

Dr. Floyd Willis on the importance of inclusive Alzheimer's Disease research

Video	Audio
<p>FLOYD WILLIS, M.D. FAMILY MEDICINE Mayo Clinic</p>	<p>Dr. Floyd Willis 00:54 – COVERED SOT "Many describe Alzheimer's (disease) and other memory loss diseases as the silent killer." Dr. Floyd Willis 00:59 "It can really sort of insidiously creep into your family or your neighborhood, and sometimes people don't know it's there."</p>
	<p>Dr. Floyd Willis has been a practicing family medicine physician for more than 30 years. He's drawn to problem-solving, particularly ones that have a community-wide impact.</p>
	<p>Dr. Floyd Willis 01:30 "It's extremely important to understand how we can predict who might get it (Alzheimer's disease) and discover early treatments for it."</p>
	<p>Connecting the community to solutions is why he has helped the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in Jacksonville, Florida, recruit participants into research studies.</p>
	<p>Dr. Floyd Willis 03:06 "Black people in America are about twice as likely to get Alzheimer's disease and other memory loss disorders — and it's very interesting and complicated reasons behind that."</p>
	<p>High blood pressure, diabetes and obesity have been linked to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease — factors that are also disproportionately higher in Black Americans.</p>
	<p>Dr. Floyd Willis 04:25 "Often, communities aren't aware that that to treat those chronic diseases and keep this part of the body healthy also keeps this part of the body healthy. So, it's important that we get this information out, it may be a way to reduce some of this increased risk for African Americans."</p>
	<p>The Alzheimer's Disease Research Center's outreach in Jacksonville's historically Black communities revealed a deeper understanding of cultural barriers.</p>
	<p>Dr. Floyd Willis 06:02 – COVERED SOT "To reveal all of these very personal things about their mind, their brain, their thought, I mean, some people equate to their spirituality." Dr. Floyd Willis 06:12 "Once you can convince people that, yes, you can trust the system, and, yes, memory loss is something that we should talk about — it's not just a thing that happens to everyone as they get old — some of it can be prevented."</p>

	He says a change in memory doesn't automatically mean a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.
	Dr. Floyd Willis 12:13 – END SOT COVERED "Work with that primary care physician to get all of those things that injure the arteries inside your body under control."
	In his decades of outreach and advocacy, Dr. Willis says what drives progress is diverse representation — from patients and study participants to researchers and physicians — and
	Dr. Floyd Willis 7:58 "...partnering with the community, and if you can, involving the community in the work that you're (researchers) doing, asking them what they find important, what do they want us to
	Study the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Alex Osiadacz.